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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 6 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to present the enclosed text of the declaration adopted by the Presidents of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation at their meeting in Moscow on 2 November 2008 (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if you could circulate the text of the declaration as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 18.

(*Signed*) Armen **Martirosyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 6 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint Declaration of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation

The Presidents of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation, having met on 2 November 2008 in Moscow at the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation,

Having held substantive and comprehensive discussions in a constructive spirit on the current status and prospects for a political settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict through continued direct dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan mediated by the Russian Federation, the United States of America and France as Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group,

1. Declare that they will work towards improving the situation in the South Caucasus and establishing stability and security in the region through a political settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, on the basis of the principles and norms of international law and the decisions and documents adopted in this framework, which will create favourable conditions for economic development and comprehensive cooperation in the region;

2. Affirm the importance of the continued mediation efforts of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, taking into account the outcome of the meeting of the parties in Madrid on 29 November 2007 and the subsequent discussions on the further development of the main principles of a political settlement;

3. Agree that the peaceful settlement must be accompanied by legally binding international guarantees for every aspect and stage of the settlement process;

4. Note that the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan have agreed to continue their work, including during further contacts at the highest level, to reach an agreed political settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict and have instructed their respective foreign ministers to take further action in the negotiation process in liaison with the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group.

5. Consider it important to support the creation of favourable conditions for taking confidence-building measures in the context of the efforts to reach a settlement.